

Griffin, Clarence

1929

[Forest City Courier]

[Forest City and Spindale, NC]

CLARENCE GRIFFIN

County Historian
of
Rutherford County

Vice-President, Piedmont
Council, Boy Scouts America

News Editor
FOREST CITY COURIER,
Forest City, N. C.

Secretary, Rutherford
County Club

Vice-President, North
Carolina Literary and
Historical Association

Spindale, N. C.

July 25, 1929

Secretary,
American Numismatic Society,
156th St and Broadway,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

About August, 1928, there appeared in The Mentor Magazine an article on the Bechtler Mint and coinage, 1831-42, an enterprise carried on in this county by three skilled German Metallurgists during that period.

The article was illustrated with a picture of the old Bechtler press, which was furnished "Courtesy of the American Numismatic Society."

I have been engaged about four years in preparing a sketch of The Bechtlers and Bechtler coinage. The sketch is complete, and I will publish it in pamphlet form within a few weeks. I have secured a number of interesting illustrations for this pamphlet, but would like also to include a picture of the press, shown in Mentor, in the pamphlet.

Please inform me if mats, cuts or pictures of the press are available, and at what price. It may interest you to know, that if such illustration is used, full credit will be given to The American Numismatic Society for its use.

A stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience in replying.

Yours very truly
Clarence Griffin
(Clarence Griffin)
Official Historian, RUTHERFORD COUNTY.

July 29th, 1929.

Clarence Griffin, Esq.,
P.O.Box 284, Spindale,
North Carolina.

My dear Mr. Griffin:

Your letter of July 26th has been received. The minting press is in the possession of our society, and I think it possible that a photograph can be obtained of it, for your pamphlet.

From your letter, I gather that there is at hand, some agency for your article, but because of its interest in our field, I am venturing to suggest that it might be suitable for our "Numismatic Notes and Monographs". This would not involve any payment for the article, but it would eliminate any expense for publication for you, and as author, you would be entitled to fifty copies for such distribution that you might care to make. This offer, if you accept it, would be subject to an examination of your article. You will readily understand that it might be so general a nature, that we might not feel warranted in undertaking its publication.

Awaiting your further response, I beg
to subscribe myself,
Very truly yours,

Secretary.

EDWARD T. NEWELL
PRESIDENT

SYDNEY P. NOE
SECRETARY

CABLE ADDRESS:
"NUMISMA" NEW YORK



HARROLD E. GILLINGHAM
TREASURER

HOWLAND WOOD
CURATOR

TELEPHONE:
WADSWORTH 7735

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
BROADWAY BETWEEN 155TH
AND 156TH STREETS
NEW YORK

July 29th, 1929.

Clarence Griffin, Esq.,
P.O.Box 284, Spindale,
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Awaiting your further response, I beg to subscribe myself,

Very truly yours,

Sydney P. Noe
Secretary.

CLARENCE GRIFFIN

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Vice-President, North
Carolina Literary and
Historical Association

Spindale, N. C.

July 30, 1929

Mr. Sidney P. Noe, Sec.,
American Numismatic Society,
Broadway Bet. 155th & 156th Sts.
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:-

Reference your letter of July 29, enclosed:

The Bechtler article, to which you refer, was written by me after about four years research work, conducted in connection with my other historical research work in capacity of official historian of Rutherford County and as an official of the North Carolina Historical Commission.

Much has been written about the Bechtlers, locally, for use in local newspapers during the past decade, but nothing approaching a complete description of them, and their work, has ever been attempted. Much of the material available locally is inaccurate and has required much time to sift out the truth of the Bechtlers.

I contemplate publishing the article in pamphlet form, here in the Courier print shop, at an early date, at my own expense. I am planning on printing about three hundred copies for local distribution only, with the exception of about one hundred copies, which will go to my good friend, Mr. Thos. L. Elder, of The Elder Coin & Curio Co., of New York.

However, if you think that you can use the article on the terms laid down in your letter, I am very willing indeed to let you do so, in order to save myself the expense of publishing same.

A rough draft of the Bechtler article is enclosed for your perusal. This copy needs revising to some extent, as I have sacrificed, in some places, sequence of events, to carry out the story. You will note a list of references attached to the article. I can, in case you may use it, give the references in the body of the text instead of using it at the close of the article. I cannot, however, give dates of all newspaper

Mr. Sidney P. Noe, Sheet No.2.

articles referred to, as I do not have that information--but can give source.

Since writing the article, some months ago, I have secured additional authentic information on one or two other points in the article which I would like to include. Mr. M.O.Dickerson, clerk of court of this county, is an authority on the subject and has assisted me very much with the work. He has collected much information during his eighty years of life on the Bechtlers, which he placed at my disposal. He loaned to me a fine old painting of Christopher Bechtler, the original Mint master, from which I have had four copies made. Mr. Dickerson's picture of Bechtler is the only one in existence, with the exception of the four copies that were made from the original. I have yet three of the copies, and have furnished one to The North Carolina Historical Commission for file.

As I am interested principally in getting this information together and in some form for general dissemination to those interested in history; and to preserve this interesting bit of history of the county, I will consider any proposition you may make.

Will appreciate the return of the enclosed manuscript regardless of your decision.

Thanking you, I am

Yours very truly

Clarence Griffin

Official Historian, Rutherford Co.,

CG:MrsGriffin.

EDWARD T. NEWELL
PRESIDENT

SYDNEY P. NOE
SECRETARY

CABLE ADDRESS:
"NUMISMA" NEW YORK



HAROLD E. GILLINGHAM
TREASURER

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CURATOR

TELEPHONE:
WADSWORTH 7735

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY
BROADWAY BETWEEN 155TH
AND 156TH STREETS
NEW YORK

August 3rd, 1929.

Mr. Clarence Griffin,
c/o "Forest City Courier"
Forest City, N. C.

My dear Mr. Griffin,

Your letter of July 31st is at hand, and as soon as I can read your manuscript, which looks very attractive, I will let you have our decision. I have also received communication from Mr. Watkins of the "Charlotte Observer" asking for photographs.

I am enclosing a copy of one of our monographs so that you may realize the form in which your article will appear. If we publish it, it will be copyrighted, and I should have to obtain special permission from our Council to allow it to be reprinted. I think this would be granted, but after our publication had appeared. Of course we should also want to have some illustrations of the Bechtler coins, and it is possible that we may have some further data regarding the ~~myth~~ which could be embodied.

mint

I hope to write you again by the end of next week. This will serve to acknowledge your letter in the meantime.

Very truly yours,

Sydney P. Noe

Secretary.

Enclosed

Alexander Hoards-Newell

August 3rd, 1929.

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c/o "Forest City Courier "
Forest City, N. C.

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I hope to write you again by the end of next week. This will serve to acknowledge your letter in the meantime.

Very truly yours,

Enclosed

Secretary.

Alexander Hoards-Newell

August 5th, 1929.

Mr. Clarence Griffin,
c/o " Forest City Courier "
Forest City, N.C.

My dear Mr. Griffin.

Responding to yours of July 31st:
I am returning your manuscript. I am very much disappointed that we cannot use it. I do not find much that is new, nor can we see any way of using the illustration of these coins so that its numismatic interest would be emphasized. If you should obtain information of the whereabouts of any of these dies, I would greatly appreciate it if you would let me know.

A photograph of the coining press will be sent you in a few days. The letter to Mr. Watson of the "Charlotte Observer," will be answered accordingly.

Very truly yours,

Secretary.

August 10th, 1929.

Mr. Clarence Griffin,
"Forest City Courier,"
Forest City, N.C.

My dear Mr. Griffin:

Referring to your previous
correspondence, I take pleasure in enclosing a
photograph of the press used by the Bechtler's.

Very truly yours,

Secretary.

Photograph
enclosed.

September 30th 1929

Mr. Clarence Griffin
Forest City Courier
Forest City, N. C.

Dear Mr. Griffin:

Your letter of the 25th is being
referred to the publishers of "The Numismatist",
as you will see by the enclosed carbon.

Yours very truly,

THE AMERICAN NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

Secretary.

November 8th 1929

Clarence Griffin Esq.
Spindale, N. C.

Dear Sir:

Thank you very much indeed for the pamphlet reprint of your article on Bechtler coinage which I am very glad indeed to have for our library. I feel sure that this will have attracted much local interest, as it very properly should. Should you at any time obtain further information which should be in our possession for future use, we should be very glad to have you inform us of the circumstance.

Very truly yours,

Secretary.